

BRE

2. Food in general, such as nature requires; to get bread, implies, to get sufficient for support without luxury. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread. *Gen. iii. 19.* If these pretenders were not supported by the simplicity of the inquisitive fools, the trade would not find them bread. *L'Estrange.*
- This dowager on whom my tale I found,
A simple sober life in patience led,
And had but just enough to buy her bread. *Dryden.*
- When I submit to such indignities,
Make me a citizen, a senator of Rome;
To sell my country, with my voice, for bread. *Phillips.*
- I neither have been bred a scholar, a soldier, nor to any kind of business; this creates uneasiness in my mind, fearing I shall in time want bread. *Spectator, N° 203.*
3. Support of life at large.
God is pleased to try our patience by the ingratitude of those, who, having eaten of our bread, have lift up themselves against us. *King Charles.*
- But sometimes virtue starves, while vice is fed;
What then? Is the reward of virtue bread? *Pope.*
- BREAD-CHIPPER. *n. f.* [from bread and chip.] One that chips bread; a baker's servant.
No abuse, Hal, on my honour; no abuse. — Not to dispraise me, and call me pander, and bread-chipper, and I know not what? *Shakespeare, Henry IV. p. ii.*
- BREAD-CORN. *n. f.* [from bread and corn.] Corn of which bread is made.
There was not one drop of beer in the town; the bread, and bread-corn, sufficed not for six days. *Hayward.*
- When it is ripe, they gather it, and, bruising it among bread-corn, they put it up into a vessel, and keep it as food for their slaves. *Bryson's Notes on the Odyssey, b. viii.*
- BREAD-ROOM. *n. f.* [In a ship.] A part of the hold separated by a bulk-head from the rest, where the bread and biscuit for the men are kept. *Sea Dict.*
- BREADTH. *n. f.* [from bryad, broad, Saxon.] The measure of any plain superficies from side to side.
There is in Ticinum, in Italy, a church that hath windows only from above: it is in length an hundred feet, in breadth twenty, and in height near fifty; having a door in the midst. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N° 794.*
- The river Ganges, according unto later relations, if not in length, yet in breadth and depth, may be granted to excel it. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vi. c. 7.*
- Then all approach the slain with vast surprize,
Admire on what a breadth of earth he lies. *Dryden.*
- In our Gothick cathedrals, the narrowness of the arch makes it rise in height; the lowliness opens it in breadth. *Addison.*
- TO BREAK. *v. a.* pret. I broke, or brake; part. pass. broke, or broken. [byeccan, Saxon.]
1. To part by violence.
When I broke the five leaves among five thousand, how many baskets of fragments took ye up? *Mark, viii. 19.*
Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. *Psalms. 3.*
- See, said the fire, how soon 'tis done;
Then took and broke them one by one:
So strong you'll be in friendship ty'd;
So quickly broke, if you divide. *Swift.*
2. To burst, or open by force.
Moses tells us, that the fountains of the earth were broke open, or clove asunder. *Burnet's Theory.*
3. To pierce; to divide, as light divides darkness.
By a dim winking lamp, which feebly broke
The gloomy vapours, he lay stretch'd along. *Dryden.*
4. To destroy by violence.
This is the fabrick, which, when God breaketh down, none can build up again. *Burnet's Theory.*
5. To overcome; to surmount.
Into my hand he forc'd the tempting gold,
While I with modest struggling broke his hold. *Gay.*
6. To batter; to make breaches or gaps in.
I'd give bay Curtal, and his furniture,
My mouth no more were broken than these boys,
And writ as little heard. *Shakespeare, All's well that ends well.*
7. To crush or destroy the strength of the body.
O father abbot!
An old man, broken with the storms of state,
Is come to lay his weary bones among ye;
Give him a little earth for charity. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*
- The breaking of that parliament
Broke him; as that dishonest victory
At Cheronæa, fatal to liberty, *Milton.*
- Kill'd with report that old man eloquent,
Have not some of his vices weakened his body, and broke his health? have not others dissipated his estate, and reduced him to want? *Tillotson.*
8. To sink or appal the spirit.
I'll brave her to her face;
I'll give my anger its free course against her:
Thou shalt see, Phenix, how I'll break her pride. *Phillips.*

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9. To subdue.
Why, then, thou can't not break her to the lute. —
—Why, no; for the hath broke the lute to me. *Shakespeare, Taming the Shrew.*
- Behold young Juba, the Numidian prince,
With how much care he forms himself to glory,
And breaks the fierceness of his native temper. *Addison's Cato.*
10. To crush; to disable; to incapacitate.
The defeat of that day at Cropredy was much greater than it then appeared to be; and it even broke the heart of his army. *Clarendon.*
- Your hopes without are vanish'd into smoke;
Your captains taken, and your armies broke. *Dryden.*
11. To weaken the mind.
Oppress nature sleeps:
This rest might yet have balm'd thy broken senses,
Which, if convenience will not allow,
Stand in hard cure. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*
- If any dabbler in poetry dares venture upon the experiment, he will only break his brains. *Felton on the Classics.*
12. To tame; to train to obedience.
What boots it to break a colt, and to let him freight run loose at random?
So fed before he's broke, he'll bear
Too great a stomach patiently to feel
The lashing whip, or chew the curbing steel. *Mary's Virgil.*
- That hot-mouth'd beast that bears against the curb,
Hard to be broken even by lawful kings. *Dryden.*
- No sports but what belong to war they know,
To break the stubborn colt, to bend the bow. *Dryden.*
13. To make bankrupt.
For this few know themselves: for merchants broke,
View their estate with discontent and pain. *Davies.*
- The king's grown bankrupt, like a broken man. *Shakespeare.*
- With arts like these, rich Matho, when he speaks,
Attracts all eyes, and little lawyers break. *Addison's Cato.*
14. To crack or open the skin, so as that the blood comes.
She could have run and waddled all about; even the day before she broke her brow; and then my husband took up the child. *Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet.*
- Weak soul! and blindly to destruction led:
She break her heart! she'll sooner break your head. *Dryden.*
15. To violate a contract or promise.
Lovers break not hours,
Unless it be to come before their time. *Shakespeare, T. G. of Ver.*
- Pardon this fault, and, by my soul I swear,
I never more will break an oath with thee. *Shakespeare.*
- Did not our worthies of the house,
Before they broke the peace, break vows? *Hudibras.*
16. To infringe a law.
Unhappy man! to break the pious laws
Of nature, pleading in his children's cause. *Dryden.*
17. To intercept; to hinder the effect of.
Break their talk, mistrefs, quickly; my kinsman shall speak for himself. *Shakespeare, Merry Wives of Windsor.*
- Spirit of wine, mingled with common water, yet so as if the first fall be broken, by means of a sop, or otherwise, it stayeth above. *Bacon's Physical Remains.*
- Think not my sense of virtue is so small;
I'll rather leap down first, and break your fall. *Dryden.*
- As one condemn'd to leap a precipice,
Who sees before his eyes the depth below,
Stops short, and looks about for some kind shrub,
To break his dreadful fall. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*
- She held my hand, the destin'd blow to break,
Then from her rosy lips began to speak. *Dryden.*
18. To interrupt.
Some solitary cloister will I choose,
Coarse my attire, and short shall be my sleep,
Broke by the melancholy midnight bell. *Dryden's Sp. Friar.*
- The father was so moved, that he could only command his voice, broke with sighs and sobbings, so far as to bid her proceed. *Addison's Spectator, N° 164.*
- The poor shade shiv'ring stands, and must not break
His painful silence, till the mortal speak.
Sometimes in broken words he sigh'd his care,
Look'd pale, and tumbled when he view'd the fair. *Gay.*
19. To separate company.
Did not Paul and Barnabas dispute with that vehemence, that they were forced to break company? *Atterbury.*
20. To dissolve any union.
It is great folly, as well as injustice, to break off so noble a relation. *Collier of Friendship.*
21. To reform; with of.
The French were not quite broken of it, until some time after they became christians. *Grew's Cosmologia Sacra, b. iii. c. 6.*
22. To

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23. To open something new; to propound something by an overture.
When any new thing shall be propounded, no counsellor should suddenly deliver any positive opinion, but only hear it, and, at the most, but to break it, at first, that it may be the better understood at the next meeting. *Bacon.*
- I, who much desir'd to know
Of whence he was, yet fearful how to break
My mind, adventur'd humbly thus to speak. *Dryden's Fob.*
24. To break the back. To strain or dislocate the vertebrae with too heavy burdens.
I'd rather crack my sinews, break my back,
Than you should such dishonour undergo. *Shakespeare, Tempest.*
25. To break a deer. To cut it up at table.
26. To break fall. To eat the first time in the day.
27. To break ground. To plow.
When the price of corn falleth, men generally give over surplus tillage, and break no more ground than will serve to supply their own turn. *Carver's Survey of Cornwall.*
- The husbandman must first break the land, before it be made capable of good feed. *Sir J. Davies on Ireland.*
28. To break ground. To open trenches.
29. To break the heart. To destroy with grief.
Good my lord, enter here. —
—Will't break my heart? —
I'd rather break mine own. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*
- Should not all relations bear a part?
It were enough to break a single heart. *Dryden.*
30. To break a jest. To utter a jest unexpected.
31. To break the neck. To lux, or put out the neck joints.
I had as lief thou didst break his neck, as his fingers. *Shakespeare.*
32. To break off. To put a sudden stop.
33. To break off. To preclude by some obstacle suddenly interposed.
To check the starts and fallies of the soul,
And break off all its commerce with the tongue. *Addison.*
34. To break up. To dissolve; to put a sudden end to.
Who cannot rest till he good fellows find;
He breaks up house, turns out of doors his mind. *Herbert.*
- He threatened, that the tradesmen would beat out his teeth, if he did not retire immediately, and break up the meeting. *Arbutnot's History of J. Bull.*
35. To break up. To open; to lay open.
The shells being thus lodged amongst this mineral matter, when this comes now to be broke up, it exhibits impressions of the shells. *Woodward on Fossils.*
36. To break up. To separate or disband.
After taking the strong city of Belgrade, Solymian returning to Constantinople, broke up his army, and there lay still the whole year following. *Knut's History of the Turks.*
37. To break upon the wheel. To punish by stretching a criminal upon the wheel, and breaking his bones with bats.
38. To break wind. To give vent to wind in the body.
TO BREAK. *v. n.*
1. To part in two.
Give sorrow words, the grief that does not speak,
Whispers the o'erfraught heart, and bids it break. *Shakespeare.*
2. To burst.
The clouds are still above; and, while I speak,
A second deluge o'er our heads may break. *Dryden.*
- The Roman camp
Hangs o'er us black and threatening, like a storm
Just breaking on our heads. *Dryden's All for Love.*
3. To burst by dashing, as waves on a rock.
He could compare the confusion of a multitude to that tumult in the learian sea, dashing and breaking among its crowd of islands. *Pope's Essay on Homer.*
- At last a falling billow stops his breath,
Breaks o'er his head, and whelms him underneath. *Dryden.*
4. To break as a swelling; to open, and discharge matter.
Some hidden abscess in the melentery, breaking some few days after, was discovered to be an aposteme. *Harvey.*
- Ask one who hath subdued his natural rage, how he likes the change, and undoubtedly he will tell you, that it is no less happy than the ease of a broken impostume, after the painful gathering and filling of it. *Decay of Piety.*
5. To open as the morning.
The day breaks not, it is my heart,
Because that I and you must part.
Stay, or else my joys will die,
And perish in their infancy. *Donne.*
- When a man thinks of any thing in the darkness of the night, whatever deep impressions it may make in his mind, they are apt to vanish as soon as the day breaks about him. *Addison's Spectator, N° 465.*
6. To burst forth; to exclaim.
Every man,
After the hideous storm that follow'd, was
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- A thing inspir'd; and, not consulting, broke
Into a general prophecy. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*
7. To become bankrupt.
I did mean, indeed, to pay you with this; which, if, like an ill venture, it come unluckily home, I break, and you, my gentle creditors, lose. *Shakespeare, Henry IV. p. ii. Epilogue.*
- He that puts all upon adventures, doth oftentimes break, and come to poverty. *Bacon's Essays, N° 35.*
- Cutler saw tenants break, and houses fall;
For very want he could not build a wall. *Pope.*
8. To decline in health and strength.
Yet thus, methinks, I hear them speak;
See how the dean begins to break:
Poor gentleman! he droops apace. *Swift.*
9. To issue out with vehemence.
Whose wounds, yet fresh, with bloody hands he strook,
While from his breast the dreadful accents broke. *Pope.*
10. To make way with some kind of suddenness, impetuosity, or violence.
Calamities may be nearest at hand, and readiest to break in suddenly upon us, which we, in regard of times or circumstances, may imagine to be farthest off. *Hosier, b. v. § 41.*
- The three mighty men broke through the host of the Philistines. *2 Sam. xxiii. 16.*
- They came into Judah, and brake into it. *2 Chron. xxi. 17.*
- Or who shut up the sea within doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? *Job, xxxviii. 8.*
- This, this is he; softly awhile,
Let us not break in upon him. *Milton's Agonistes, l. 115.*
- He resolved, that Balfour should use his utmost endeavour to break through with his whole body of horse. *Clarendon, b. viii.*
- When the channel of a river is overcharged with water, more than it can deliver, it necessarily breaks over the banks, to make itself room. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
- Sometimes his anger breaks through all disguises,
And spares not gods nor men. *Denham's Sophy.*
- Till through those clouds the fun of knowledge brake;
And Europe from her lethargy did wake. *Denham.*
- Oh! could'st thou break through fate's severe decree,
A new Marcellus shall arise in thee. *Dryden's Aeneid.*
- At length I've acted my severest part;
I feel the woman breaking in upon me,
And melt about my heart, my tears will flow. *Addison's Cato.*
- How does the lustre of our father's actions,
Through the dark cloud of ills that cover him,
Break out, and burn with more triumphant blaze! *Addison.*
- And yet, methinks, a beam of light breaks in,
On my departing soul. *Addison's Cato.*
- There are not wanting some, who, struck with the usefulness of these charities, break through all the difficulties and obstructions that now lie in the way towards advancing them. *Atterbury.*
- Almighty pow'r, by whose most wise command,
Helpless, forlorn, uncertain here I stand;
Take this faint glimmering of thyself away,
Or break into my soul with perfect day! *Arbutnot.*
- Heav'n its sparkling portals wide display,
And break upon thee in a flood of day! *Pope's Messiah.*
- I must pay her the last duty of friendship wherever she is, though I break through the whole plan of life which I have formed in my mind. *Swift's Letters.*
11. To come to an explanation.
But perceiving this great alteration in his friend, he thought fit to break with him thereof. *Sidney, b. i.*
- Stay with me awhile;
I am to break with thee of some affairs,
That touch me near. *Shakespeare, Two Gentlemen of Verona.*
- Break with them, gentle love,
About the drawing as many of their husbands
Into the plot, as can; if not, to rid 'em,
That'll be the easier practice. *B. Johnson's Catiline.*
12. To fall out; to be friends no longer.
Be not afraid to break
With murd'ers, and traitors, for the saving
A life so near and necessary to you,
As is your country's. *B. Johnson's Catiline.*
- To break upon the score of danger or expence, is to be mean and narrow-spirited. *Collier on Friendship.*
- Sighing, he says, we must certainly break,
And my cruel unkindness compels him to speak. *Prior.*
13. To break from. To separate from with some vehemence.
How didst thou scorn life's meaner charms,
Thou who could'st break from Laura's arms? *Roscommon.*
- Thus radiant from the circling crowd he broke;
And thus with manly modesty he spoke. *Dryden's Virgil.*
- This custom makes bigots and scepticks; and those that break from it, are in danger of heresy. *Locke.*
14. To break in. To enter unexpectedly, without proper preparation.
The doctor is a poliant, that, with a deep voice, and a magisterial air, breaks in upon conversation, and drives down all before him. *Addison on Italy.*
15. To